

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member for use in binding a stack of sheets, said binding member having reduced transverse curl and made in accordance with the following method:

providing ~~an elongated~~ a substrate having a ~~longitudinal~~ first axis and transverse axis normal to the ~~longitudinal~~ first axis;

applying a layer of molten, ~~[[heated-activated]]~~ heat-activated adhesive over a surface of the substrate, substantially along a full length of the substrate along the ~~longitudinal~~ first axis;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling and prior to application of the ~~binder-strip~~ binding member to a stack to be bound, mechanically deforming a surface of the layer of adhesive to a degree such that curling of the ~~binder-strip~~ binding member along the transverse axis is substantially reduced.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member of Claim 2 wherein the mechanically deforming includes applying multiple grooves to the surface of the layer of adhesive.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member for binding a stack of sheets comprising:

~~an elongated~~ a substrate having a ~~longitudinal~~ first axis and a transverse axis normal to the ~~longitudinal~~ first axis; ~~and~~

a layer of ~~[[heat activated]]~~ heat-activated adhesive disposed on a first surface of the substrate substantially along a full length of the substrate, with the layer having an exposed

surface containing mechanical deformities of a ~~sufficient-magnitude~~ nature to substantially reduce curling of the ~~binder-strip~~ binding member along the transverse axis; and  
with a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first surface of the substrate, being substantially smooth in at least some of the second surface regions that are opposite the mechanical deformities in the adhesive.

7. (Currently Amended) The adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member of Claim 6 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of grooves formed in the exposed surface.

8. (Currently Amended) The adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member of Claim 7 wherein the grooves extend at least 20% of the way through the total thickness of the adhesive layer.

9. (Currently Amended) The adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member of Claim 8 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

10. (Currently Amended) The adhesive ~~binder-strip~~ binding member of Claim 6 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of punctures in the exposed surface.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~binder-strip~~ binding member applied to a stack of sheets using a binding machine and formed in accordance with the following method comprising:

providing ~~an elongated~~ a substrate having a ~~longitudinal~~ first axis and transverse axis normal to the ~~longitudinal~~ first axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over a surface of the substrate substantially a full length of the substrate along the ~~longitudinal~~ first axis;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the adhesive layer is in a solid state;

subsequent to the cooling, mechanically deforming an exposed surface of the adhesive layer to an extent such that curling of the substrate about the transverse axis is substantially reduced, thereby forming a ~~binder-strip~~ binding member; and

subsequent to the mechanically deforming, applying the ~~binder-strip~~ binding member to a stack of sheets using a binding machine.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A binder strip having reduced transverse curl and made in accordance with the following method comprising:

providing an elongated substrate having a longitudinal axis and transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over a surface of the substrate substantially a full length of the substrate along the longitudinal axis;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the adhesive layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling, forming a multiplicity of grooves in an exposed surface of the adhesive layer; and

wherein the elongated substrate includes a pair of opposing substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An adhesive binder strip for binding a stack of sheets comprising:

an elongated substrate having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis; and

a layer of [[heat activated]] heat-activated adhesive disposed on a surface of the substrate and extending substantially the full length of the substrate along the longitudinal axis, with the layer having a multiplicity of grooves formed in an exposed surface which extend at least 20% of the way through a thickness of the layer of adhesive and wherein the elongated substrate includes a pair of opposing substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal

axis with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

20. (Previously Presented) An adhesive binding member for binding an edge of a stack and having reduced transverse curl, said binding member made in accordance with the following method:

providing a substrate having an elongated region for receiving an adhesive, said elongated region extending substantially along a full length of the edge of a stack bound by the binding member, with said elongated region having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over substantially all of the elongated region of the substrate;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling and prior to application of the binder member to a stack to be bound, mechanically deforming a surface of the layer of adhesive to a degree such that curling of the binder member along the transverse axis is substantially reduced.

21. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 20 wherein the mechanically deforming includes applying multiple grooves to the surface of the layer of adhesive.

22. (Currently Amended) An adhesive binding member for binding an edge of a stack of sheets comprising:

a substrate having an elongated region for receiving an adhesive on a first substrate surface, said elongated region having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the elongated axis, with the elongated region extending along substantially a full length of the edge of the stack after binding; and

a layer of ~~[[heat activated]]~~ heat-activated adhesive disposed over substantially all of the elongated region, with the layer having an exposed surface containing mechanical deformities of ~~sufficient magnitude~~ a nature to substantially reduce curling of the binding member along the transverse axis ~~with the mechanical deformities being created when the adhesive is in a substantially non-molten state,~~ wherein a second surface of the substrate

opposite the first surface is substantially smooth in at least some of the second surface regions opposite the mechanical deformities in the adhesive.

23. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 22 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of grooves formed in the exposed surface.

24. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 23 wherein the grooves extend at least 20% of the way through the total thickness of the adhesive layer.

25. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 24 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

26. (Previously presented) The adhesive binder strip of Claim 22 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of punctures in the exposed surface.

Please add the following new claims:

27. (Newly Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 2 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate, with the first axis being a longitudinal axis of the elongated substrate and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

28. (Newly Presented) The binder strip of Claim 6 wherein the second surface of the substrate is substantially smooth in all of the second surface regions opposite the adhesive.

29. (Newly Presented) The binder strip of Claim 6 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate, with the first axis being a longitudinal axis of the elongated substrate and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with the substrate edges being

unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

30. (Newly Presented) The binder strip of Claim 19 wherein the adhesive is disposed on a first surface of the substrate and wherein a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first surface, is substantially smooth in at least some of the second surface regions that are opposite the grooves in the adhesive.

31. (Newly Presented) The binder strip of Claim 30 wherein the second surface of the substrate is substantially smooth in all of the second surface regions opposite the adhesive.

32. (Newly Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 31 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

33. (Newly Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 22 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate, with the first axis being a longitudinal axis of the elongated substrate and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

34. (Newly Presented) The binder strip of Claim 33 wherein the second surface of the substrate is substantially smooth in all of the second surface regions opposite the adhesive.